(e) and (f) Adequate provisions to prevent exploitation of contract labour by contractors like responsibility for payment of wages, welfare and health facilities to workers on the part of principal employer in case of default by the contractor to provide these amenities etc. already exist in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.

Ravindra Verma Commission

3678. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1744 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th December, 2002 and state:

(a) the details of the recommendations of Ravindra Verma Commission which have been accepted and those turned down; and

(b) the reasons for turning down or partially rejecting the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) The Second National Commission on Labour has made wide ranging recommendations on various facets of labour *viz.* review of laws, social security, women and Child labour, skill development, wages, labour administration, unorganised sector etc. The Ministry has held consultations and interactions with the workers' representatives, employers' organizations, experts, professionals etc. The recommendations of the Commission were discussed in the 38th Session of ILC held on 28-29 September, 2002 and in a Tripartite meeting held on 18-19 February, 2003 at V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, NOIDA. Such steps are being taken to bring about a workable consensus for implementation of the recommendations of the Commissions.

Non-payment of Wages

†3679. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that salary to the labourers who are performing their duties continuously inspite of their serious illness, is not being paid by his Ministry for the last several years;

(b) if so, the number and category of the said labourers and the reasons for non-payment of their salaries;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the officer responsible for non-payment of salaries to the affected labourers and the action taken by Government against him; and

(d) the immediate orders proposed to be issued by Government to provide better treatment and payment of all the wage dues to the affected and ill labourers and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) No, Sir. No such complaint has come to the notice of this Ministry.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Payment of minimum wage

†3680. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the provision of wages to be paid to men, women and minor labourers under Minimum Wages Act;

(b) the reasons for variation in amount paid as wages by the states; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure uniformity in the interest of labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 provides for different wages for adults, adolescents, children and apprentices. The Act does not discrimate between men and women. The women workers get the same wages as men do.

(b) and (c) The variation in the minimum wages in the States is attributable to factors like socio-economic & agro-climatic conditions, prices of essential commodities, productivity, paying capacity and local conditions which vary from State to State and region to region.

In order to minimize the disparity in wages, the Central Government mooted the concept of a national floor level wage in 1996 and fixed it at Rs. 35/- per day based on the recommendations of National Commission on Rural Labour (1991). The floor level was further increased to Rs. 45/- per day *w.e.f.* November, 1999 based on the rise in Consumer Price

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.